

ever written appeared in this famous old story paper in the 1860's and 1870's. Many of them were reprinted in book form, and nearly all of them were reprinted in paper cover standard novel size for long runs in many editions in the United States. The two famous novels, "Dora Thorne" and "Old Myddelton's Money" originally ran as serials in the FAMILY HERALD. Other famous stories in the volumes I have, are, "All in the Wild March Morning"-"Lord Roth's Sin"-"Magdalen's Legacy"-and-"For Life or Death". Crackerjack stories, all of them; hard to beat in today's popular fiction.

Some of the authors producing these stories, at that time, were: Mary Cecil Hay-"The Duchess"-Alice Ellis-Violet Wyte-Emma Sara Williamson, and Arnold Gray, to mention but a bare half dozen.

That grand serial story paper expert, William J. Benners, can have any of these volumes he wants, postage free !

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WITH THE NOVEL STACKERS.

RALPH F. ADIMARE..up to his ears digging up data for his articles now running in our magazine...

GUY BAUMGARDENER..lots of colored cover thrillers..Pluck and Luck-Work and Win...

CHARLES BRAGIN..still accumulating for his fine collection, when prices are right..He deserves the splendid publicity Brooklyn papers are giving him and his library of popular fiction...

RAYMOND L. CALDWELL..going to tell us soon about his complete set of "Pluck and Luck". Also has a nearly and the most complete set of Frank Merriwells in existence...

G. H. CORDIER..still stacks them up for sentimental reasons..Favorite is "Frank Leslie's Boys' and Girls' Weekly"..has four of the

JULY-AUGUST 1932

RECKLESS RALPH'S DIME NOVEL ROUNDUP

Official Organ Happy Hours Brotherhood

"SHORTY JUNIOR ON HIS EAR"

This is a mimeographed reprint of the original Dime Novel Round-Up in which appears an illustration by this title. It was from one of the famous Shorty stories by Peter Pad which ran as featured serials in the BOYS OF NEW YORK in the late 1870's. The title of this story was "Shorty Junior on His Ear, or, Always on a Racket". Although the Shorty stories cannot be found on the same public library shelf with the cloth bound volumes of American comic literature of this period, they are precious souvenirs of a grand decade in our industrial and artistic history—the decade of the Philadelphia Centennial, "Josiah Allen's Wife", and the "Gilded Age" of Mark Twain.

Mr. Ralph Adimare, who has devoted much time to the study of the comic stories written under the pen name of Peter Pad, is of the opinion that George G. Small, Edward E. Ten Eyck, and Cecil Burleigh actually wrote at different times under this nom de plume for the Frank Tousey organization. Small, who died in 1885, was a positive genius as an editor of popular and flash periodicals. Ten Eyck, another genius in his way, died a year later at the youthful age of twentyeight.

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THE DIME NOVEL

Its place in American Literature.

BY RALPH F. ADIMARE.

II

The Pre Dime Novel Era (1830-1860)

Third Section.

BALLOU, the Father of the Dime Novel.

(Continued)

The times needed a stern, one-tracked man like Ballou. It was not a time for sissies. His environment under his stern puritanical father, Hosea Ballou, while not calculated to develop a sweet mother's boy, nevertheless gave him qualities of mind and intellectual independance that were vital for the pioneer work he was to accomplish alone and unaided. True, this strict, straight-laced upbringing curdled his soul to an extent. In not one line of his voluminous works, can you find a single trace of humor. He was essentially a business man with rare editorial ability. He could strike a hard bargain, if necessary, like any other ruthless business man. For instance, there is a story about his acquisition of "Flag of Our Union" and "Gleason's Pictorial" to the effect that he threatened Gleason with two rival papers, unless the latter sold his papers to Ballou. Whether this is true or not cannot be confirmed, but it gives a clue to his character that he could, if necessary, be ruthless.

A critical analysis of Ballou's numerous output of about fifty books (some serious and others of the sensational kind) does not disclose any creative writing. He had the reportorial vision, that is superficial. His mind was not intense but sluggish, painstakingly piecing obvious facts together. The high sense of tragedy was beyond him. Outwardly, what few pictures extant of him, gave to him a certain poise, grave and thoughtful, but inwardly he did not have the introspective qualities necessary to creative writing. There is no doubt that his mind was crushed in early youth; that the stern religious upbringing froze the genial current of his soul.

We are certain that his pursuit for health was in reality a pursuit for certain elements in his soul, dormant all his life. This was his tragedy. He desired to express his views to the world but it was denied him all his life. What he failed to do in an artistic sense, he achieved in spite of himself, in a practical way. And, like others, he thought he had failed, but we know he succeeded with marvelous results. His writings, dull and obvious, show nothing original, but in one book, "Genius in Sunshine and in Shadow", he does show a fine spirit of appreciation of world literature. A sample of his writings under his own name, may be given here, from "The Pearl of India", Boston, 1894: (quote)

"A surprise awaited us on one occasion, while visiting a coffee plantation near Kandy. Seeing a snake over four feet in length moving along unmolested on the path in front of the bungalow which was occupied by the planter's family, it was quite impossible to suppress an exclamation. Our host smiled pleasantly as he explained that the creature was not only tolerated about the house, but that it was a pet ! It seems that these reptiles are often kept to kill and drive away the coffee rats, as they are called; a certain specie of rodents which are often abundant on these estates and terribly destructive to the growing crops. They are twice the size of an ordinary rat, such as is common with us. They feed upon birds, blossoms and ripe berries of the coffee to an unlimited extent, if not interfered with. The snake is their natural enemy and is more destructive among them than a well-trained domestic cat would be. In fact these rats would be more than a match for an ordinary cat. So the fer-de-lance is a great rat destroyer among the sugar plantations of Martinique, a snake which is as poisonous as the cobra of Ceylon." 3

Here is perfect English-but little else. Ballou is surprised at all this, but he fails in the whole book to give any definite Characteristic of the people he visited. What interested him was banal mush as rats and rat-catching. As you will note, he naively places an exclamation point after "pet" to denote how important the information is. Tribialities alone amazed him while the profound tragedy of the Indian race left him cold. In his sensational (we use the word merely as a tool to express his romantic tales, written under his alias) writings, he is even duller. There is no sparkle of romance, no keen zest of adventure-just words, words, words. In his criticisms and editorials he constantly used such graybearded phrases as "sustained power" "intense intellectual vigor characterizes this work which should become immensely popular."

His successful venture into journalism was not an accident, for he had a passion for noting non-essentials, which is the bane of journalism. But while his writings will not live, his influence will not be dimmed by the flight of time. This man had an amazing capacity for work and a sharp critical faculty for discovering young hopefuls eager for the business. Unlike Mencken, in that he was not a rambunctious fellow, he might be called the Mencken of his time. He was a powerful influence in his time. He threw off the shackles that held us to Europe, and by so doing, paved the way for the Dime Novel-that suacy American baby that kept the pious chasing themselves, trying to wipe it out.

(To be continued).

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DIME NOVEL ROUND-UPPERS.

Series of Plain Talks by F.P.PITZER.

I often wonder if the membership of the Dime Novel Round-Up Brotherhood, shows the

A

the right give-and-take spirit. True, when one possesses rare boys weeklies, it is mighty hard to ask him to give them up. He loves them; he fairly worships them-as far as one can worship the printed word. He will not swap; he will not sell. So, as far as that particular weekly is concerned, it is at a standstill.

Let me make my point more clear. A, B. & C. are all saving GOLDEN HOURS. A has about 100; B has about 150, and C has about 750 and lacks about 50 to make his set complete. Let us assume that copies of GOLDEN HOURS are not procurable. Immediately, three collectors are standing still-not one with a complete set of his favorite story paper, and not one having a Chinaman's chance to complete his set. Under such conditions, how far should a brother collector go in helping out? Say that C. needs numbers 750 to 800, and say that A had twentyfive of these numbers and B had the other twentyfive. Should not A and B sell those needed numbers to C in order to complete his set? Is that the kind of fraternalism our organization should stand for? Would it not be a matter of pride for our membership to point out a fellow member who has a complete set of ANY particular boys' story paper? Of course, to do that means the conservation in one spot of a paper that was a mile-stone in our early life. For A and B, it would be a real sacrifice. And wouldn't it conform with the spirit of our magazine to do that, than to have three collectors all deadlocked? Wouldn't membership in the brotherhood mean more, if more of these sort of things were done? There ought to be a department in our magazine wherein such points could be debated pro and con. Of course that would mean enlarging the paper. And that means adding to our dues. I think we should organize more

strongly.

DIME NOVEL PRICES HOLD.

By Charles Bragin.

The New York Times recently contained an advertisement offering rare first editions of standard literature-"Pickwick Papers" in the original parts as issued and other rare Dickens items as well as other classic rarities-at prices about fifteen per cent of what they formerly brought at auction.

A reduction of eightyfive per cent in the value of rare old books ! We all know that American first editions have been ridiculously boosted in prices and that values have, as a result, tumbled down to the bottom. But this astounding drop in REAL rarities-books which have consistently increased in value through the years--makes one ponder on the values in Dime Novels.

It is astounding to me, how values in Dime Novels keep up, in face of the tremendous drop in values of all other classes of books. And this in spite of the fact that during the past twelve months, a tremendous quantity of Dime Novels has been put on the market for sale-more than has been offered for probably a period of five years previously. As fast as lots turn up, they are quickly absorbed by collectors. There are no lots of Dime Novels "begging" for buyers on the market, as is the case with all other classes of books.

I have been greatly mistaken in my belief of last year that the uncovering of large lots of Dime Novels in "cold storage" would bring down prices. This does happen with all other classes of books, and I naturally presumed it would with Dime Novels. There has been some decline, but this is due to conditions which make for lower prices, due to a lower purchasing power. But the decline is

COLLECTOR AVERAGES OUT.

By Fred T. Singleton.

I have been a grownup Dime Novel and popular story paper fan for about 18 months and was a day and night reader of them in the late 1880's and early 1890's. Last year, just getting into collecting the marvelous old-time wonders, I paid plenty for some of my boyhood favorites in the belief that the first offered to me, were the last copies to be had in all the world. My sentimental interest got the best of my pocketbook. Today, I am a bit more conservative and like to get a good look at the stuff before I buy.

But everything averaged out for me last Saturday. I stopped at a big downtown Detroit second-hand book store in which I had not been for several months, and found on a stand out in front, a stack of bound volumes of the old classic love story weekly, the FAMILY HERALD, which goes way back to the 1850's and which could still be seen on the news-stands up to quite recently. Twentysix numbers to a volume, and all of them in neat brown bindings in which the publisher did them up twice a year. The earliest volume in the stack was the run for Nov. 1, 1873 to Apr. 25, 1874. The volumes look like they had been in an editor's file-many names of authors when omitted under titles, being filled in neatly in ink. A great many titles of the short stories in the table of contents of some volumes, was checked off as though reprinted in some other magazine or newspaper.

Well, the sign said "Five Cents Each"-Five cents a volume-not per single copy ! And for fifty cents I lugged off all the volumes I could carry home in two big packages. If any are out in front next Saturday, I shall carry away two more bundles.

Some of the most popular love stories

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large volumes and five of the earlier ones in the smaller size...

ROSS CRAUFURD...specializes in classic English Penny Dreadfuls and Old Boys'Books.. just added fine set Burrage's "The Lambs of Littlecote"with all colored illustrations, to his collection.

RALPH F. CUMMINGS...recently found in an old attic...six rare volumes Beadle's famous SATURDAY STAE JOURNAL..All grabbed quick by brother collectors...

FRANK T.FRIES...still sweet on invention stories, Handsome Harry, and the James Boys...

FRED LEE...Active trader in heavy stuff-gets some fine items-and knows his values, too...

WIN ROBBINS...one of real oldtime readers & collectors..Deadwood Dick is true for him.. probably knows more about Beadle's Half-Dime Library than any other man living.

GEORGE SAHR...just completed set of Young Klondike up to No.39..An article on same scheduled for early printing in Round-Up...

LEO SCHERER...still enthusiastic for the old time Golden Argosy and other early Munsey publications.

F.P.PITZER...Got into the hobby trying to locate run of the grand serial "Bob Nelson's Telegraph Line" in Golden Hours.Now has good runs of that paper, but not yet connected with his favorite boyhood thriller.

C.ARTHUR NEETZ...Likes colored covers on the Tousey and Street and Smith mickel thrillers.

ROBERT H. SMELTZER...claims Dime Novel business is lively despite hot weather, but mostly swapping...a handsome novel stacker, if his photograph doesn't fib.

S.NATHAN...Knows much about old-time story papers and Popular literature of the 1870's and 1880's...You can't trip him up on the values, either.

P.J.MORAN...writing to the boys again..has big collection rare Dime Novels & Papers.